

# Board budget stuck at \$284.8 million

## Cuts come down to trustees' Christmas party

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
Special to The Champion

Faced with making cuts to their \$284.8 million 1992 expenditure budget, Halton Board of Education finance committee members could only find \$5,600 worth of fat to cut Monday night.

That amount was set for a trustees' Christmas party and only one of two items cut from the budget, the other being the halving of a \$5,000 discretionary fund for trustees.

"It's 10 o'clock and they've discussed nothing of substance so far," charged Halton Taxpayers Coalition member Roger Love who last summer helped audit the board.

The finance committee eventually approved the \$284.8 million expenditure budget for 1992. Last week trustees chopped \$9 million in administration-recommended block cuts, one-time cuts on everything from classroom computers to furniture supplies, to bail the board and its taxpayers out of recessionary times.

But any major cuts suggested by several trustees Monday lost on committee votes. Those failed cuts included:

- A \$100,000 cut from the \$9.1 million transportation budget (historically underspent) in 1992.

- Elimination of a \$68,000 (\$71,559.46 with GST) membership fee to OPSBA (Ontario Public School Boards' Association), a public school lobby group. This was deferred.

- A cut of the \$5,175 trustees' discretionary fund (this was successfully cut to last year's level of \$2,508.)

- A \$20,000 cut by axing one of two *Our Schools* board magazine publications for Halton residents.

- Cuts further to a 3.5 per cent inflation reduction and administration commitment to cut any possible funds from the director of education's \$42,206 funds and meeting expenses budget.

- Any reduction on the \$9,363 trustee mileage budget by limiting mileage claims to north Halton trustees only.

- Limiting trustee conference attendance to two conferences/trustee — expenses which come from a \$17,878 Other Travel Expenses fund.

- A 50 per cent reduction of a \$468,041 staff development budget. And, a reduction to the 1991 rate of \$400,136 to the same budget — (all of which is over and above a \$563,130 fund provided for staff professional development based on contract agreements.

- Any reduction to \$721,659 for instructional staff mileage.

- A \$20,000 slash of the \$70,000 budget for staff recruiting (employment advertisement) — a budget allotted \$81,000 but spent only \$28,000 in 1991.

Many of the questioned areas have already been cut by a 3.5 per cent inflation adjustment and will be part of the \$600,000 cut administration has pledged to make from wherever it can in the overall budget.

Trustees will meet again March 23 to hear the revenue side of their budget (provincial grants should be announced in mid-March).

Most budget discussions have focused on the 20 per cent of the budget which isn't locked into contract and associated salaries and benefits.

Ward 2 trustee Cheryl Reid said she wants to start the 1993 budget process next month.

Burlington's Don Cassidy said recession is an opportunity to restructure and called for the elimination of 15 positions/year for the next three years at the board. It's likely this will be discussed in camera since it's an employment matter.

Burlington trustee Diane Leblovic wants out-of-province and out-of-country staff development cancelled until March 1993 at which time the same will be reviewed by trustees.

## Scholarship winner

An educational scholarship worth \$2,000 towards post secondary education, has been awarded to Milton's Cynthia Carman. Cynthia was the recipient of one of 12 available scholarships awarded by the Canada Post Corporation.

It's the third year Canada Post has offered scholarships to the children of Canada Post employees.



Cynthia Carman

## University Courses in Milton and Oakville

These courses can be applied to a University of Waterloo degree and/or a Renison College Social Work Certificate. Register in advance or at the first class. If space permits, auditors may be accommodated. For more information, contact: The Registrar, Renison College, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G4. Phone: (519) 884-4400.

**MILTON**  
Milton District High School  
396 Williams Avenue

Community Organization 1\*  
(SOCWK 222R RZ)  
7-10 Thursdays  
April 9 - June 25

\*Indicates prerequisite (introductory Social Work or consent)

**OAKVILLE**  
St. Ignace of Loyola High School  
1550 Nottinghill Gate

Palliative Care\*  
(SOCWK 240R RZ)  
7-10 Tuesdays  
April 7 - June 23

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MILTON 875-2255

### Halton Women's Place request for Board Members

Halton Women's Place, a shelter for abused women, is seeking new members for the Board of Directors. We are looking for people who are committed to working on an active Board in response to violence against women and children.

For further details and an application please contact T. Greer at 878-7757 by March 31, 1992.



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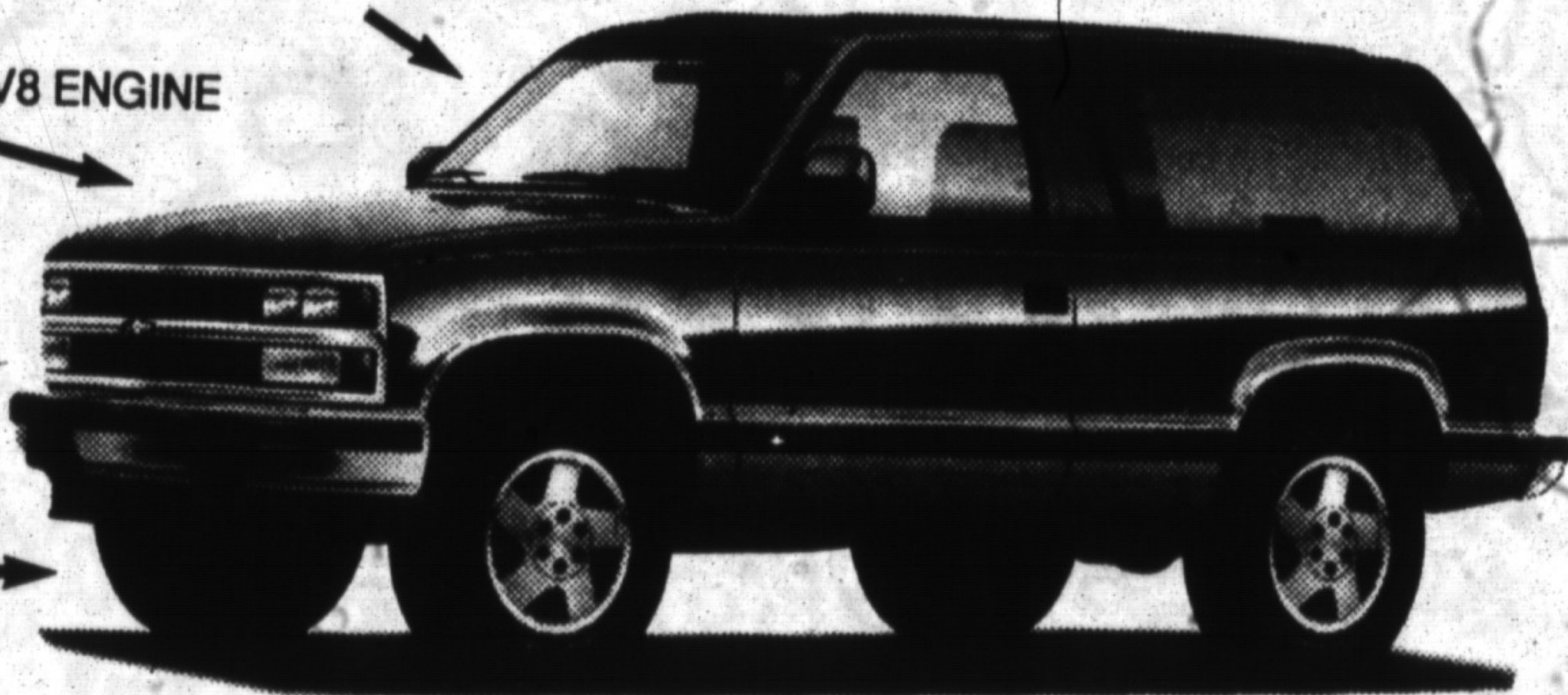
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